

Syllabus

Philosophy 4: Introduction to Ethics

Fall 2009

Instructor: Wally Siewert
Office: 5432 Q Graduate Tower.
Office Hours: M,W 2-2:50
Email: wsiewert@umail.ucsb.edu

Sections and TAs:

M. 3-3:30 Girv. 2120
T. 1-1:50 Arts 1251.
John Plimpton
Office Hours: W 11-1
Office: 5432 S Graduate Tower
Email: jbpimpton@umail.ucsb.edu

T. 2-2:50 Arts 1426
W. 12-12:50 B.S.I.F. 1217
Matt Griffin
Office: 5432 R Graduate Tower.
Office Hours: M 2-3, F 2-3
Email: mjgriffin@umail.ucsb.edu

W. 2-2:50 N.H. 1111
R. 9-9:50 Girv. 2120
Robert McIntyre
Office: 5432 U Graduate Tower
Office Hours: W 10-12
rmcintyre@umail.ucsb.edu

F. 10-10:50 Arts 1251
F. 2-2:50 N.H. 1109
Albert Shin
Office: 5432 X Graduate Tower
Office Hours: W 2-3, F 11-12
Email: ashin@umail.ucsb.edu

Meeting Time & Place: MWF 1-1:50, 1910 Buchanan Hall.
Final Exam: Thursday, Dec 10, 4-7 pm. 1910 Buchanan Hall.

Class Description: This will be a survey course of historical theories in the field of philosophical ethics as well as applications of these theories to contemporary moral problems.

Educational Goals: Our purpose will be to engage the students in rigorous, logical, argument driven deliberation on the nature of ethics as well as contemporary ethical problems.

Required Texts: *The Right Thing to Do: Basic Readings in Moral Philosophy*
By James and Stuart Rachels. (At the book store)
Reader on the Trial and Death of Socrates
Available at GrafikArt in Isla Vista

Course Website:

<http://www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/websites/phil4/>

All slides will be posted to the course website as study aids. They will appear section by section as each subject section is finished in lecture.

WARNING: The slides alone will not provide sufficient knowledge of the material for either the papers or the final, they are study aides. **Lecture and section attendance, as well as the reading, is mandatory and will be reflected in your participation grade and on the exam.**

Order of Subject Material:

Introduction: Philosophical Arguments

I: Life and Death of Socrates

Reading: Euthyphro, Apology and Crito in the Reader

II: Ethical Egoism

III: Cultural Relativism

IV: Immanuel Kant and Deontology

Reading: Kant, Chapter 7.

V: JJ Thomson on Abortion

Reading: JJ Thomson "In Defense of Abortion" Chap. 12.

VI: Mill's Utilitarianism

Reading: Chapters 3,4 and 5 on Utilitarianism.

VII: Singer on World Poverty

Singer on World Poverty, Chap. 18.

VIII: (time permitting) Political Philosophy

Course Requirements: Attendance, participation, two 3-4 page papers, one final exam.

Grading (as a percentage of final course grade): First paper: 25%, second paper: 35%, final 30%, participation grade 10%.

Academic Integrity: Hopefully this section is superfluous. As in all classes it is expected that all submitted work is the student's own. Failure to comply will result in severe academic penalties. **Don't test me on this.**